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AKA ICE CUBE, AND JEFF KWATINETZ

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BIG3 LLC, a limited liability company; O'SHEA JACKSON a/k/a ICE CUBE, an individual; and JEFF KWATINETZ, an individual;

Plaintiffs.

VS.

Ahmed Al-Rumaihi, an individual;
Faisal Al-Hamadi, an individual;
Ayman Sabi, an individual; Sheikh
Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Sau Al
Thani, an individual and as CEO of
Qatar Investment Authority; DOES 1-
100,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: 2:18-cv-03466-DMG-SK

Assigned for all purposes to
Hon. Dolly M. Gee

**PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO
DEFENDANTS' *EX PARTE*
APPLICATION TO CONCEAL
IDENTITY OF AHMED AL-
RUMAIHI AFTER MISLEADING
THE COURT AND PUBLIC HE
WAS A PRIVATE CITIZEN**

I. INTRODUCTION

Yesterday evening we received an email from David Ciarlo, counsel to Defendant Ahmed Al-Rumaihi which stated he had “contacted the Court, and the Court has agreed to remove the offending materials from the public . . .” referring apparently to a July 31, 2018 letter from DLA Piper. We asked Mr. Ciarlo to explain the nature of these purported *ex parte* communications with the Court, without our knowledge, and to explain what he was referring to by “offending material.” (Exhibit A). Mr. Ciarlo refused to discuss the communications with the Court and claimed that apparently Mr. Rumaihi’s existence and his identity is private. Somehow, and without briefing on the issue and the opportunity to be heard, Plaintiffs’ filing was sealed at the request of Mr. Rumaihi.

The information that Mr. Rumaihi was a diplomat and engaged in an influence operation targeting and harming United States citizens, including Plaintiffs, was contained in the operative First Amended Complaint (FAC, ¶¶22,23). The subject of Mr. Rumaihi's identity was also the focus of a separate Federal Action in the Southern District of New York where Mr. Rumaihi defrauded a condominium seller for over \$100 million. (*Id.*, see *1964 Realty LLC v. Consulate of Qatar* (1:14-cv-06429-ER)).

Here, Defendants argue that because they misled this Court and the public and stated he was a private citizen and businessman and not connected with the government, and then was caught lying, that the true information about Mr. Rumaihi's purported real identity should now be secret.

If Mr. Rumaihi's existence and identity was a secret, Defendants could have moved to seal the complaint, they could have asserted diplomatic status or immunity, and, at the very least, they did not have to deceive Plaintiffs, multiple courts, and the public that he was a private businessman.

1 Instead, and ironically, Defendants' filed an Anti-SLAPP Motion before this
 2 Court invoking California free speech law, while now seeking to keep Mr. Rumaihi's
 3 identity a secret.

4 In essence, Defendants are attempting to make Mr. Rumaihi the ultimate
 5 "chameleon litigant" changing and contradicting his identity and status, in different
 6 forums, as it suits their interest, to exploit American citizens and businesses.

7 Further, Defendants' *Ex Parte* Application filed today must be denied as there
 8 is no "offending material."

9 First, Mr. Rumaihi does not have a privacy interest in his identity.

10 As the Sixth Circuit has explained, "Common sense tells us that the greater
 11 motivation a [litigant] has to shield its operations, the greater the public's need to
 12 know." *Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. v. FTC*, 710 F.2d 1165, 1180 (6th Cir.
 13 1983). Here, there would be no credible basis for Plaintiffs (or any litigant), as United
 14 States citizens, to seal their identities and professional background, yet this is
 15 precisely what Mr. Rumaihi asks the Court to do here. *See, e.g., Foltz v. State Farm*
 16 *Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 331 F.3d 1122, 1136 (9th Cir. 2003)([t]he mere fact that the
 17 production of records may lead to a litigant's embarrassment, incrimination, or
 18 exposure to further litigation will not, without more, compel the court to seal its
 19 records.)"

20 Second, the purported protective order referenced by Mr. Rumaihi in the
 21 parallel Arbitration was submitted but has not been entered by the Arbitrator in that
 22 action and is therefore not effective and operative. *See, e.g., Foltz v. State Farm Mut.*
 23 *Auto. Ins. Co.*, 331 F.3d 1122, 1130 (9th Cir. 2003) The proposed protective order
 24 has no affect at that time. Moreover, the protective order was submitted to the
 25 Arbitrator before the letter revealing Mr. Rumaihi's true-identity. As Mr. Rumaihi did
 26 with multiple courts and the Arbitrator, he defrauded the claimant in that action into
 27

1 believing he was a private citizen and on that basis the parties could enter a normal
2 protective order. The claimant in that action will be withdrawing any consent to the
3 proposed inoperative protective order now that Mr. Rumaihi's true identity is known.

4 Further, the claimant in that action requested an emergency hearing to address
5 Mr. Rumaihi's fraud on the Arbitrator regarding his identity. The hearing in that
6 action was set by the Arbitrator for August 14, 2018. *See, Jepson, Inc. v. Makita Elec.*
7 *Works, Ltd.*, 30 F.3d 854, 858 (7th Cir. 1994) ("Even if the parties agree that a
8 protective order should be entered, they still have the burden of showing that good
9 cause exists for issuance of that order.")

10 Third, the inoperative protective order is also not applicable to the July 31, 2018
11 DLA Piper Letter. Specifically:

- 12 • Paragraph 2 of the inoperative protective order provides that Confidential
13 Material does not include public information or information that is available
14 to the public.
- 15 • Paragraph 13 of the inoperative protective order states that information that a
litigant has access to before the Arbitration is not subject to the protective
16 order.
- 17 • Paragraph 8 of the inoperative protective order provides that a party is
obligated to designate a document as confidential or highly confidential.

18
19 The July 31, 2018 letter was not designated as confidential or highly
20 confidential. Further, in addition to not being designated confidential, Plaintiff had no
21 reason to believe the subject matter was confidential because the information was
22 discussed in the First Amended Complaint and was the subject of the SDNY Federal
23 Action against Mr. Rumaihi. The FAC addresses these topics here as well:
24
25
26
27

1 22. Defendant Al-Rumaihi, himself a member of the Qatar royal family, holds
 2 himself out as one of the heads of Qatar Investments. Defendant Al-Rumaihi is the same
 3 former diplomat who is responsible for an aborted attempt, resulting in litigation,
 4 surrounding the purchase of a \$100 million townhouse at 19 E. 64th Street, New York City –
 5 in what would have been the most expensive townhouse purchase in the history of New York
 6 City at the time. Six months after agreeing to buy the property, and the day before the
 7 closing of the transaction, Qatar backed out of the deal.
 8



Al-Rumaihi (right) with his spurned broker, March 2014, NYC

23. Upon recent investigation, it has been uncovered that in the lawsuit filed
 24 against the Consulate of the State of Qatar in connection with this failed \$100 million real
 25 estate transaction, *1964 Realty LLC v. Consulate of the State of Qatar (1:14-cv-06429-ER,*
 26 *SDNY)*, Defendant Qatar tried getting out of the deal by arguing that Defendant Al-Rumaihi
 27 misrepresented his credentials and did not have authority to enter into the deal on behalf of
 28 Qatar. From the Court's Order to Deny Qatar's Motion to Dismiss:

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
1964 REALTY LLC,
Plaintiff,
- against -
CONSULATE OF THE STATE OF QATAR-
NEW YORK,
Defendant,
NEW YORK LAND SERVICES INC.,
Stakeholder Defendant.

OPINION AND ORDER

14 Civ. 6429 (ER)

Plaintiff maintains that it "has done what the law requires," specifically, "it pled that the
 Consul General . . . signed the Agreement on behalf of Defendant; that the Agreement was
 legally binding, constituted a commercial transaction, and explicitly waived sovereign immunity;
 and that Defendant breached the Agreement to Plaintiff's detriment." PL's Mem. L. Opp., Doc.
 25 at 1. In turn, Defendant argues that: (1) Al-Rumaihi lacked the authority to enter into the
 Agreement on behalf of the foreign state of Qatar; and (2) since Al-Rumaihi was neither
 authorized to engage in the commercial transaction of purchasing the Property or waive
 sovereign immunity by signing the Agreement, neither exception applies. Def.'s Mem. L. Supp.
 Mot. Dismiss, Doc. 22 at 9-11.

Further, a litigant's identity is not confidential. Defendant should not be rewarded for misleading courts and the public that he was a private citizen when he is apparently not. If Defendants' wanted special diplomatic treatment for Mr. Rumaihi they could have requested it when the case was filed. Mr. Rumaihi claimed to be a private citizen and businessman and should now be treated like every other normal litigant before this Court.

For these reasons, Defendants' request to seal Mr. Rumaihi's identity should be denied and Mr. Rumaihi should be deposed so that we can determine who he really is to avoid further doubt, confusion, and fraud.

DATED: August 10, 2018

GERAGOS & GERAGOS, APC

By: /s/ MARK GERAGOS

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